

# grassroots

THE PAPER ABOUT YOU VOL. 2 NO. 4 JUNE 1981 10c

## 'I'LL BACK STRIKERS'

A WORKER spoke to Grassroots about how she came to realise that she had to support the workers in their struggle.

My husband left me with four mouths to feed. I was laid off work. When I heard of work at Leyland, I went because the wages are higher than at other factories. It's hard to get work these days.

There is so much trouble in the community. The people are calling us 'scabs' and

saying that we are taking the bread out of the workers mouths. They say that we must not take their jobs and that we can go back with them for a living wage. I have lost many friends. My best friend won't speak to me because I've taken her husband's job.

All this is affecting

me and my children very badly.

I went to the doctor twice this week, but he says there is nothing wrong with me.

I leave home at day-break with the hope that nobody will see me. The girls at work are also affected by it. We can't stand it any more.

The workers came to speak to me the other day. They say that we must stand together,

that we are all brothers and sisters and that we must not break their strike.

Also, that the bosses make huge profits from our work and that the workers are only asking for their share. It is true that there are not many workers inside and that the cream is still outside.

The workers asked me to come to the public meeting. I know

now that it is not only the community supporting them, but trade unions, churches, clubs and workers all over the world.

I will join them. I will stand by them. I will sacrifice with them. We will be united.

Amanda! is the cry of the workers as I tell my story. My best friend stands by me, "now we are true sisters", she said.



## LEYLAND WORKERS

## STAND FIRM

THE Leyland workers are determined to wage their struggle for higher wages to the bitter end. The bosses have tried every means at their disposal to break the strike, but the workers have stood firm and united in their actions to fight the bosses.

At community meetings held in the areas where the workers live - Macassar, Kleinvele, Strand, Stellenbosch, Paarl - they have rallied the support of the community calling on people not to take their jobs at Leyland.

"We must reject the people who become scabs", they said. The workers have also called on the community "not to let the Leyland workers starve".

Support committees have been formed in the areas where the workers live.

House visits and

house meetings are being held to talk to the people about their struggle and how they can support them.

The workers have also pamphleteered in these areas and addressed meetings of other

organisations in these areas calling for support.

Trade unions, students, religious organisations and the broader community are now coming forward and

have pledged solidarity with the workers struggle and for the unconditional reinstatement.

At meetings of workers they have said that "if we win this struggle we win it not for our-

selves, not for our children, but for South Africa. So we ask you, if you are a brother or sister of dignity, stand by us and victory will be ours."

- see page 5

## Mitchell's Plain's triumph is a victory for all

MITCHELL'S Plain's victory on the electricity due date issue is a triumph for grassroots community organisation.

Initially the campaign was spear-headed by the Electricity Petition Committee, but in the end it was a people's victory with the people taking the initiative themselves.

The campaign reached its peak when 200 Mitchell's Plain residents - the people themselves - marched on Civic Centre to present City Council with a memorandum containing their demands and a petition signed by 7 500 (see story Page 4).

The concessions fought for and won by the residents of Mitchell's Plain will not only be of benefit to them alone but to all the people in the Peninsula living in City Coun-

cil controlled townships.

And the concessions finally amounted to more than was asked for.

The objection was to the due date for electricity payments falling within the third week of the month when money is scarce and the demand was for the due date to be changed to the 7th of the month.

The Council eventually agreed to grant a month-long "period of grace". This means that an account falling due on the 22nd can be paid up until the 22nd of next month.

If it is paid during this period the old 10 per cent surcharge falls away in the case of accounts of under R30 (It is understood that the average Mitchell's Plain electricity account is R17).

## Deported women came back . . .

- pictures page 3

IT was a long weary road from Komgha to Stutterheim.

Side by side they walked, many with babies on their backs. It was no easy walk, that 60 kilometres. But the 28 women were determined to get back to Cape Town and their husbands.

And they made it. In the early hours of Wednesday morning, five days after they had been sent to the Transkei, they were back with their husbands in Crossroads.

"We want our rights here in Cape Town," the women said. "There is nothing for us in the

Transkei. We belong here with our husbands."

Some of the women have lived in Cape Town for nearly 20 years. Many of them had been forced to move from Killarney to Hout Bay and then to Langa Barracks. After being forced out there, Crossroads was the end of the road for them.

But there was to be no peace for them. At Crossroads, the men told Grassroots what had happened.

The women had been separated from their husbands when

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**Lead can harm you**  
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**Durban's candle protest**  
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**Hunger rife in Atlantis**  
- page 15



**Students and unity**  
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**Washing line story**  
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**Shock for nurses**  
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# Workers' spirit is not broken

ALTHOUGH for about 30 of the 700 workers who went on strike for higher wages at a co-operative near Grabouw last year the strike was unsuccessful — they did not get their jobs back — their spirit has by no means been broken.

This can be clearly seen from letters a number of them have sent to the Cape Town headquarters of their union, the Food and Canning Workers Union.

Wherever they have found other jobs they have been enthusiastically spreading the union's organisational message.

The workers at Kromrivier Apple Co-op (Kromco) went on strike towards the end of April last year for better wages. Many of the workers were being paid R15 a week or less.

On May 1 at a mass meeting attended by more than 2 000 residents in Grabouw it was decided to support the striking workers.

Blankets and food were donated by the residents.

Of the strikers, the seasonal and contract

workers from the Transkei found themselves the worst off.

About 100 African migrant workers were returned to the Transkei in a Kromco bus after their contracts had been cancelled.

Workers said they had been chased from their hostel by police at about 5 a.m.

The management had given them no option but to return home. They had been paid off but had not received their bonuses or back pay.

At the time the union deplored the "brutality" of the Kromco management's response to the workers demands for higher wages.

After lengthy negotiations between the union and the management a satisfactory settlement was reached.

Workers received an average weekly pay increase of R10.

It was agreed to take back the Transkei workers who were on one year contracts.

In the case of those whose six-month contracts were due to expire in July it was agreed to give them a cash settle-

ment of half their wages until the end of July.

It was also agreed that these workers would be given first option of jobs when the next batch of six-month contracts became due.

However, when the Kromco recruiting team went to take on new contracts in the Transkei they returned with a batch of new workers and hardly any of the old ones.

They claimed that most of the old workers had failed to turn up at the pre-arranged recruiting point.

However, the union learned later that the workers had failed to turn up at the pre-arranged recruiting point.

However, the union learned later that the workers had been there but had just not been offered jobs.

The union took this up with Kromco management and the recruiters returned to the Transkei. The workers on a one-year contract were brought back.

However, the workers on a 6 month contract were left behind. At the start of the next



season Kromco's management said all vacancies had been filled and they could not take any more old workers back.

Although disappointed by this setback,

union organisers have been heartened by the response of the 30 affected contract workers.

"From letters we have received it is clear


that their spirit has not been broken.

"Wherever they have been finding other work they have been carrying forward the union message at their

new work places."

A number have got jobs on farms, a cement factory and a winery and have asked for advice about organising workers there.

500 Wilson Rowntree workers have been unfairly fired because they went on strike




AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

in support of the 3 workers who refused to fix the machine

The workers believe that

**UNITY IS STRENGTH**



And they are standing together

"IF the community organisations do not support the workers in their struggles, how can we expect the workers to get involved in community struggles?"

This was what one community worker said at a meeting held to discuss the struggle of the Wilson Rowntree workers in East London.

At this meeting were representatives of trade unions, community groups, womens organisation, university students and school students in the Western Cape. They met to decide how to respond to the call from the workers in East London for a national boycott of Wilson Rowntree sweets and chocolates.

## ASSIST

Everybody agreed that the community in the Western Cape should assist the striking workers. But in what form?

"The best way we in Cape Town can help is to put pressure on the

Wilson Rowntree bosses by boycotting their sweets and chocolates," said the people at this meeting.

So a Wilson Rowntree Support Committee was formed. This committee has representatives from over 22 organisations in the Western Cape.

"Support can only be successful if it comes from the community itself. The aim must be to place that support under the democratic control of the community organisations."

It is the community that can win the boycott, so it must be the community that makes the decisions about the boycott."

## WHAT IS THE COMMITTEE DOING?

Firstly it has publicly declared its "full support for the boycott of Wilson Rowntree products".

It has also produced a number of pamphlets and cartoon strips to make the issues known

in the Western Cape.

Money is also being collected at schools and in the townships to help the striking workers who have had no income for over three months now.

At the last meeting of the support committee a statement was made to the people of the Western Cape explaining the issues and calling for their full support in the boycott of Wilson Rowntree sweets and chocolates.

"We support the strike and the demands of the workers in East London for democratic organisation in their factories, and the end to management victimising workers.

## DISGUST

We have watched with obvious disgust the attitude of the Wilson Rowntree bosses to their workers. They have sacked the workers and refused to come to an agreement with them. Instead they

have allowed 500 more workers to be thrown onto the unemployed market."

The support committee also took note of the fact that Wilson Rowntree was a British company.

"We condemn the intransigence of the London headquarters of Wilson Rowntree in not settling the dispute, and note the way of foreign exploiters being able to control the lives and sack black South African workers. Instead of negotiation, they have answered the demands of workers with carefully worded rationalisations."

In their statement the support committee also pointed out that the governments of the Ciskei and South Africa had come to the assistance of the Wilson Rowntree bosses. "The state has stepped in on the side of management and detained 24 workers who have been peaceful in their campaign thus

far."

## CONDEMN

So the support committee felt it was the duty of all people in the community of the Western Cape to condemn the actions of the

Wilson Rowntree bosses.

"We cannot but call on all the people of the Western Cape to support the workers call for a boycott of Wilson Rowntree sweets, gums and chocolates.

"With the onslaught of the state and the bosses on the lives of the workers, we feel it is the duty of every member of the oppressed community to help organise a successful consumers boycott."

## Workers told not to attend meeting

"THE security police must stop interfering in union matters," an organiser of the General Workers' Union said.

On Sunday May 3 the GWU held a meeting with workers from Paarl, Ceres and Worcester in Paarl.

The Friday before members of the security police told workers at Mbekweni in Paarl that they must not attend the meeting.

The Sunday morning before the meeting started at 10 a.m. a

member of the security police fetched two workers at Mbekweni and dropped them at the place where the meeting was being held.

He told the workers they must attend the meeting and that he would pick them up at 11.30 a.m.

GWU organisers present told the workers that they should not be scared by the actions of the security police.

A very constructive meeting took place des-

pite the efforts of the security police to scare workers away from the meeting.

In any case the security police did not come back at 11.30 as they had said they would.

"The attempts by the security police to intimidate workers is not going to prevent them from organising in their factories under the banner of their union, an organiser said.

# Maintenance remains a serious problem

CITY Council tenants have expressed anger at having to pay for repairs to their homes — even though they have not signed the new maintenance lease.

In terms of the new lease, tenants have to pay for their own repairs.

The new lease would have applied to all tenants but because of pressure put on them by communities, they dropped it for old tenants.

Last month a delegation from BBSK

(Bokmakirie, Bridgetown), Silvertown and Kewtown) confronted Council about the new lease.

They felt it was unfair that tenants had to pay for repairs to homes they were renting.

The Council subsequently decided to drop the lease for old tenants and said it would only apply to new tenants. This was seen as a considerable victory at the time.

It now appears however that the situation

remains very much the same. Whether you are an old tenant or a new tenant, residents argue, you still have to pay for repairs.

"We have not signed the new lease," said one resident.

"It means absolutely nothing to us because we have to pay for all our maintenance as though we had signed the new lease," he continued.

Besides this, several residents feel that they have had to pay for their own maintenance

in any case — even before the new lease was introduced.

"Our homes are not maintained, but the moment we fall in arrears with our rent or electricity payments, the council start hounding us immediately, complained an elderly resident.

A spokesperson for CAHAC (Cape Areas Housing Action Committee) said the maintenance problem was becoming a fairly serious one. Various community organisations

have expressed alarm at the situation and, as a result, CAHAC is planning a mass protest meeting to deal with the issue.

Besides having to maintain their own homes, the 22 000 people who are on the Council's waiting-list now face a further financial burden.

Since May 10 new Council tenants have been paying a month's rent as deposit. The previous deposit was R10 for sub-economic

and R15 for economic houses.

Residents stated this was an added burden on those who do not have homes and are forced to accept the Council's offer.

Tenants who maintain their own homes and make every effort to improve it still have to pay damages.

A Lavender Hill woman said the walls of her home had to be

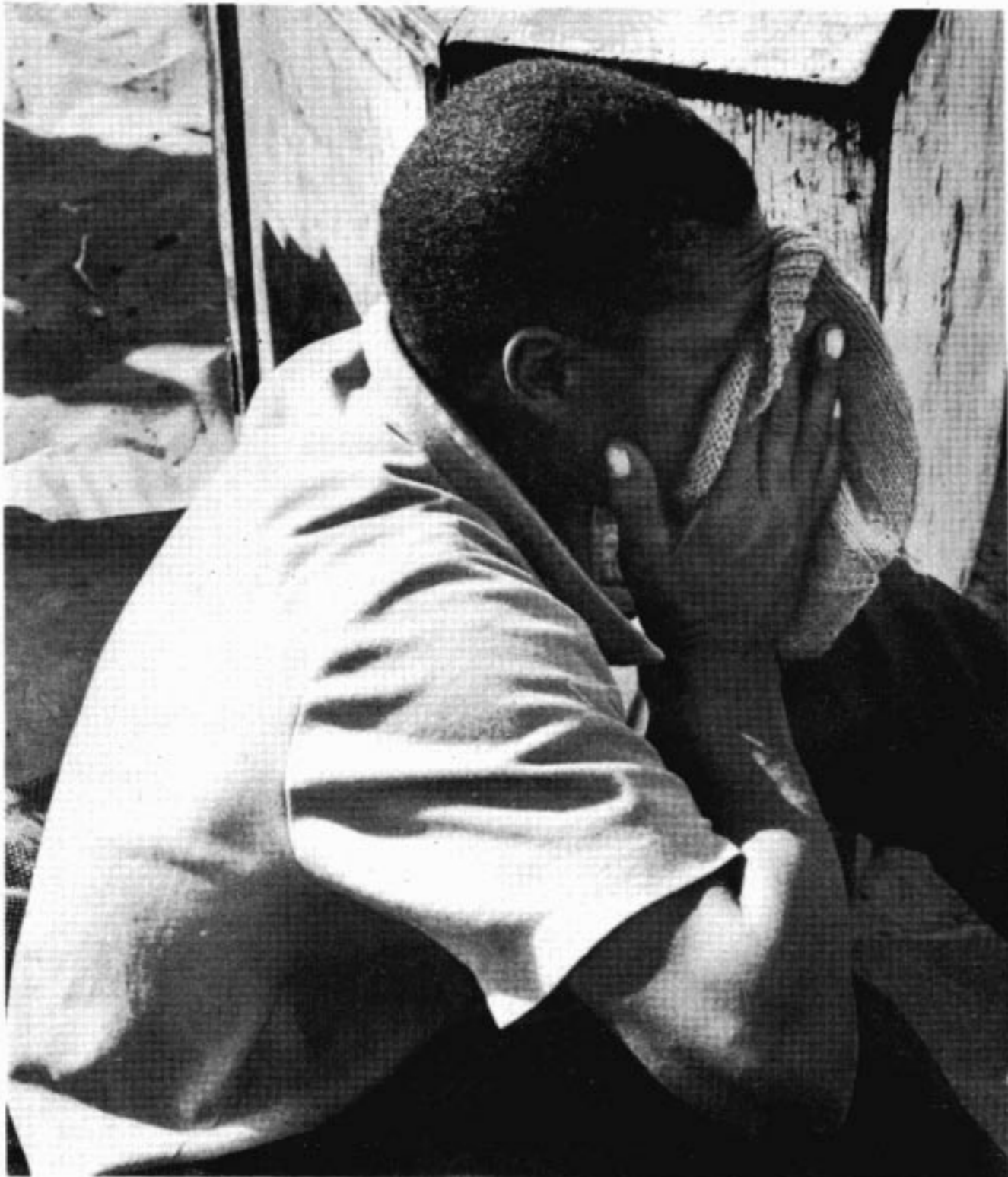
skimmed because of the bugs coming out of them.

"I was informed that when I moved out, I will have to pay damages for having the walls skimmed," she said.

Tiling, painting with oil paint and plastering also constitutes damages.

After BBSK's confrontation with Council, many people believe the maintenance problem still remains as serious as before.

## "We want our rights!"



Mister Elder Mqhekeza breaks down and weeps as he speaks of his wife and sick child who were sent back to the Transkei.



A feverish child waits for a doctor to attend to her in Crossroads. "We are far from doctors in the Transkei. We must stay here", her mother said.

## GUGULETU RESIDENTS MEET OVER EVICTIONS

GUGULETU residents were up in arms last month after certain people were evicted from their homes without being given reasons.

At a meeting held by the Guguletu Residents Association, residents spoke about their plight.

One woman said her family had been evicted even though they had regularly paid their rent to the owner of the house where they were lodging.

Because the owner of the house had not paid the rent, they had gone to the Penin-

sula Administration Board where an official said they could keep the house if they paid the outstanding rent.

"After a few days, I was surprised to be informed that we should leave the house," the woman said.

At the Administra-

tion Board she was refused her money back and was given no explanation.

The meeting decided to take her complaint and others to higher authorities. Other people also said they were unfairly evicted.



Mrs Mthise Ndotwana with her child, Alicia. "We are unhappy, but not frightened."



# People Power from the Plain

THE People entered the City Council's "Lion's Den" one morning last month — and they, the People, ROARED.

"Go! Go! Go!" came from 200 throats in full voice.

And the objects of the People's displeasure, the security police — whom many regard as all-powerful — went.

The People had come in three bus-loads from Mitchell's Plain to present a memorandum to the Town Clerk demanding that the due date of their electricity payments be changed.

## ADHOC

The handing over of the petition was the culmination of months of organisation by an ad hoc body called the Electricity Petition Committee which included a mass meeting on Thursday May 14.

One of the most important aspects of the meeting was that a new concept of leadership emerged.

Should a four or five person delegation be elected to present the memorandum unanimously adopted at the meeting to Council?

## PEOPLE

No! The People would be their own leaders. They would ALL go to Cape Town and hand in copies of the memorandum.

How? By train, to assemble later in Town?

An offer to provide buses came from the floor. It was accepted.

It was still dark when people started to come together at the bus points. Mothers came with toddlers and babies. Fathers had stayed away from work, probably at the cost of a day's pay, to be part of the People's action.

## STUDENTS

There was a sprinkling of young students, too...

Before they boarded the buses it was decided not to have a spokesperson or persons.

The People would speak for themselves.

Each and everyone was fully acquainted with the issues at stake.

It didn't matter which individuals eventually spoke.

The People were One.

## CONVOY

The bus convoy headed for town.

The People soon saw that a car full of police was in front of them and another behind.

They got out of the buses at the station and walked in two's toward the Civic Centre a few hundred metres away.

Any group of more than two in the open air is a gathering according to the Riotous Assemblies Act and therefore against the law.

Inside the Centre posters emerged from under jerseys and banners were unrolled.

They all assembled in the payment hall.

## LABOUR

Apparently paying an account was Mr M D Arendse from Paarl. He is a past leader of the Labour Party and a current member of the President's Council.

He immediately appeared to identify himself with the protesters — advising demonstrators how to stand, how to hold posters.

As soon as he was recognised he was chased away.

A Council official asked the protesters to come into the lecture hall to hand over their memorandum.

## BANNERS

The people with the banners positioned themselves at the back of the hall.

Look at the plush seats. Is this where our money is going? This was the question on the lips of the People.

After a short delay a tall man entered.

"I am Stanley Evans, the deputy Town Clerk. The Town Clerk, Mr Heugh, is not available..."

"We want Heugh. We want Heugh." is the People's chorus.

"He is not here. He

is at a conference in Port Elizabeth."

## DISCUSS

"Please leave us to discuss whether we will see you on our own."

Dr Evans left the hall.

Someone looks up at the gallery in the back.

"Who are you people up there?"

"We work in the building."

"Well go away"

## DECIDE

The People discuss and decide they have no alternative but to speak to Dr Evans.

He is called back.

"I will speak with you," he said, "and answer your questions. I know you have come a very long way..."

At this stage someone recognised one of the men up in the gallery as a security policeman.

## SECURITY

"Why have you brought the security police here. What we have to talk about is how we live in our homes. It's got nothing to do with security or politics. Tell them to leave."

Dr Evans: "I didn't call the security police. They will leave..."

"Go! Go! Go!" the People thundered.

## GALLERY

And the security police, in the gallery and in the doorway, left.

The discussion continued.

"We have come to ask that the due date be changed to the 7th of the month. Most of us get paid at the end of the month. At present the due date falls in the third week of the month when we have no money left. This forces us to pay late and for this we must pay a 10 percent penalty."

## ARREARS

Dr Evans: "What would happen if all the other areas want to be paid on the seventh..."

"We haven't come here on behalf of other areas. We only represent the wishes of Mitchell's Plain. Re-

member that... Mitchell's Plain. Mitchell's Plain."

"MITCHELL'S PLAIN". 200 voices as one.

"What do you do with the R400 000 a year the Council makes from the penalties we have to pay for late payment?"

Dr Evans: "Some of it is used to keep your rates down."

## WHITES

"Mostly Whites' rates you mean. Many of us rent our homes so those of us who do aren't affected by any rates benefits."

Council was then asked by the group to bring their reply to Mitchell's Plain. Dr Evans said he would pass on the message.

At that stage a man with a camera entered.

"Where are you from? We don't recognise you as any of the press photographers we know."

Man with camera: "I'm from the Argus."

"Where is your identification?"

## PRESS

He was unable to produce a press card and was identified instead as a security police photographer.

"OUT! OUT! OUT!" the People roared and he was bundled out of the hall.

To Dr Evans: "Why did you invite a security police photographer to OUR meeting?"

## INVITE

Dr Evans: "I didn't invite anybody, certainly not these other (press) photographers. In fact I am going to insist that they and the other press people also leave this meeting."

"We invited them. Let them stay."

At this point the People's anger was ready to boil over and they decided to end the meeting.

## HANDED

As they filed out they handed their copies of the memorandum to Dr Evans.

He was also handed a petition with 7 500 signatures calling for the due date to be changed.

Dr Evans accepted the copies of the memorandum and said "thank you very much" 200 times.

Outside the people marched with their

banners and posters aloft.

The evicted photographer was waiting.

## BRANCH

In what was described as a "heavy security branch accent, he called on some of the protesters to pose for him.

They turned their backs.

As the protesters neared the buses, the police moved in and confiscated the banners and posters.

The People offered no resistance.

The banners and posters had already served their purpose.



Petitions pile up.

## R16 covers food for a month — council

THE Council's latest newsletter for Mitchell's Plain stresses the importance of budgeting.

"We work extremely hard for our money, but often fall down in determining how it should be spent. Financial experts stress the need to budget: to split your expenses into categories, to allocate so much to them and keep within those limits.

The newsletter gives

an example budget based on a salary of R300 a month.

The Council's budget provides R87 for food. The average size of a Mitchell's Plain family is 5,2.

When Dr Munnik gave his controversial food budget of R20 a month for pensioners it resulted in a public outcry.

According to it's budget, the Council expects the average Mit-

chell's Plain resident to live on food costing R16.73 cents.

That feeding one's family is of secondary importance as far as the council is concerned emerges from the newsletter.

"NB. YOUR FAMILY DEPENDS ON YOU TO PROVIDE SHELTER so your monthly instalment on your home must take TOP PRIORITY," the newsletter says.

# Civic body for Thornhill

A NEW civic body, the Thornhill Residents Association, was launched at a mass meeting in the Habibia Orphanage Hall on May 27.

About 600 people attended the meeting. Representatives of

the General Workers Union and the Leyland workers spoke at the meeting.

It was decided to support the Leyland strikers and the Wilson Rowntree boycott.

The meeting also

called on the Government to stop action against Alexander Sinton High teachers who supported the schools boycott last year.

The TRA will serve Rylands and surround-

ing areas.

It was decided not to use Rylands in the name as Rylands is regarded as a "group area" term.

Thornhill was the area's original name.

# Background to Leyland strike

IN December last year, the union representing the striking Leyland workers, the National Union of Motor Assembly and Rubber Workers Union of South Africa (Numarwusa) entered into an agreement with management.

This agreement provided for a 9 cents per hour increase which

would be implemented 1st July 1981. This agreement was subject to the condition that if the company's position improved, management would consider giving an increase above the 9 cents in the agreement.

The workers met at a general meeting and demanded

- \* the unconditional reinstatement of all workers dismissed illegally
- \* no victimisation of dismissed workers
- \* that negotiations begin immediately for a wage increase of 25 cents an hour and a minimum wage of R2 per hour to be implemented

over the next four months.

Management has refused to talk to the workers through their representatives, but has used every means at its disposal to break the strike. The workers have stood firm in their stand and are determined to stay outside.

Management has claimed that the plant is operating at full production, but the workers claim that this is not so. The workers say that "the cream is still outside and that management is trying to mislead the people."

The union has referred to management's actions to get workers back as an "act of desperation".

A worker said at one of the meetings that "the bosses have sent cars to fetch us, telegrams asking us to come back. They have pamphleteered and advertised starvation wages and now they are even advertising on the radio for workers. We have refused to give in to management's tactics to buy us off".

The workers are now actively campaigning for community support. The workers are calling on "the community to stand together, we must be united, these are small words, but it means a lot", they say.

## THEY CAME BACK

from page 1

they all went to the administration offices in Langa.

"We went to the offices because we thought they were going to give us passes," the men said.

"We were very happy on the Thursday when we were told to bring our wives and come to the offices to get passes. We prepared ourselves and were ready at six on Friday morning.

The inspectors said there would be workmen who would look after our belongings.

"But it was not to be. They took us to Langa and then came to fetch our belongings without our permission. All this was dumped at the office and we later had to sign for our goods. Many of us lost our blankets and other things.

"At the offices, a man said he was Dr. Koornhof. He said the men would be given passes but the women would be sent back to the Transkei.

"Many of the women were taken to court where they were

cautioned and discharged.

"Before we knew it, our wives were put on the bus and sent to the Transkei.

The men each had their own stories to tell. As one husband spoke of his wife and sick child, he broke down and wept.

"I do not know where they are and what is going to happen to them," he said.

But Mr Elder Mqhekeza had little to fear. The women had made up their minds to come back.

At Komgha, they refused to leave the bus when the inspectors told them to wait for the train to take them to the Transkei.

At Komgha, they refused to leave the bus when the inspectors told them to wait for the train to take them to the Transkei.

"They brought dogs on to the bus and forced us to the station," one of the women said. "Once off the bus, we did not get on the train but started walking towards Stutterheim. We were

lucky to get a bus in Queenstown which brought us back to our husbands."

The women are refusing to go back to the Transkei because they say there is nothing for them.

"We cannot live there. We are far from clinics or doctors," some of the women said.

"Two of my children have died of TB. I want this one to live," said a frail young woman carrying a baby on her back.

"We want our rights in Cape Town - we are not happy here but we are not frightened. They can arrest us but we are going to stay," they said.

## TIME TO RENEW SUBSCRIPTIONS?

THIS is the 10th issue of Grassroots. All those who subscribed to Grassroots between April and July last year should note that the next issue of Grassroots is the last they will be entitled to re-

ceive without renewing their subscription.

We ask that this should be done as soon as possible.

Subscription forms and details of new rates are on page 15 of this issue.

# ROBOT

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# comment

## Mitchell's Plain: a people's VICTORY

WHAT a great victory the people of Mitchell's Plain have won.

City Council not only agreed to the people's demand to change the due date by giving 30 days to pay electricity bills, but was also forced to scrap the 10 percent penalty on late payments. All this after categorically saying on so many occasions that the due date could not be changed!

And it's not only for Mitchell's Plain. It applies to the whole of Cape Town which makes the victory that much more significant.

In the end, the people of Mitchell's Plain have again proved that if we stand together and if we do things for ourselves, we are sure to get success.

Sometimes victory takes longer to come, sometimes it comes quicker, but come it will.

The people themselves refused to be diverted by opportunists. Attempts by certain so-called 'leaders' to gain hand-outs from City Council were rejected and the campaign grew from strength to strength.

The people kept the initiative in their hands and as one person appropriately put it at a meeting: 'All those so-called leaders got was a cup of tea. But we got the real thing, we got the victory.'

To gain the people's support at the start, the Electricity Petition Committee (EPC), canvassed from door to door and held many house meetings. Only when they were sure they had backing, did they go public by conducting a scientific survey, circulating a petition for signing and calling mass meetings.

It culminated in a protest march by 200 people on the Cape Town Civic Centre where the presence of a large force of policemen and security branch members could not even deter the people.

Displaying excellent discipline and restraint under the circumstances, the people discharged their function so well that even the acting Town Clerk had to say: 'I respect you.'

That the police and security branch turned out in such force was unexpected, though not surprising.

As in the strike of the meat workers where the State intervened on the side of the bosses, it now seems that civic affairs will also increasingly attract this type of attention.

Not that the people allowed themselves to be intimidated. Flexing the muscle of collective action, the delegation to the civic centre went as far as to evict from the meeting a policeman posing as a press photographer.

The role of certain newspapers in the campaign was also highly questionable.

It was to be expected that the commercial press would either play down the campaign or come out on the side of Council. But to have the cheek to tell us to learn to budget is unforgivable.

It only illustrates just how much these papers are out of touch with the community.

## Community support needed

NEARLY 2 000 workers are on strike at Leyland. They are demanding an increase of 25 cents an hour which would add up to R2 for an eight-hour day.

The bosses are refusing to meet this.

With food prices nearly doubled in the last years, how can these workers survive even if they do get the increase?

The workers demand for better wages is reasonable and should be met. They need every bit of support from the community in their time of hardship.

In East London, 500 Wilson Rowntree workers are on strike. They have called on the community not to eat any products of Wilson Rowntree. They too need every bit of support.

The time is past that we can say 'that is their problem and not ours.' The problem facing any group in the community is the problem of the whole community. Only through giving every bit of help that we can to these workers will the bosses be forced to meet their demands.



## LETTERS

# Accusations fly in Ravensmead

Ravensmead has a population of between 32 000 and 35 000 people. The area is grossly over-populated. About 12 000 will have to be resettled elsewhere against their will. The tragedy about the situation is that

those born in the area must move while hundreds of those who remain behind are from Bellville, Elsies River and country areas.

Nobody seems to be doing anything. Ravensmead has four civic associations of

which two are still functioning. The two most important civic bodies at the moment are the Tiervlei, Stonehill, Florida and Welfare Association led by Oom Hansie Christians and the Ravensmead Ratepayers Association

led by Mr Edward Marlie.

The two civic bodies are causing confusion and disunity in Ravensmead.

Instead of fighting to improve the burden of the under-dog the

two civic bodies are fighting for positions in the Management Committee.

Both leaders are openly gossiping about each other. They accuse each other's camp of shebeening, theft, adultery and corruption.

Many people are suffering while the "so-called" leaders condemn each other. Both leaders accuse each other of being stooges while both are fighting for management committee status.

So many of our people are homeless and suffering. We are now sick and tired of dummy councils.

I appeal to all residents and ratepayers to unite and fight the evils of management committees. Can't we come together with students and all other interested people in order to establish a truly democratic civic body for Ravensmead?

If the two existing civic bodies insist on fighting dummy elections their leaders must be ostracised now.

If Lotus River, Grassy Park, Lansdowne and Paarl can ignore and condemn their management committees why can't Ravensmead, which is the strongest anti-apartheid township in the Cape Peninsula, do likewise?

Anti-Management Committee

## 'I lost eleven children'

NEARLY 200 people were evicted from Langa Barracks two months ago. They were given temporary shelter in a church and then moved to Crossroads.

These letters were received from 3 mothers:

"I am 50 years old. My heart is very sad over the way we are staying here.

"But I prefer to stay in this way than go back to the Transkei. The reason is that my husband was not able to get work there since he was a boy.

"He has to come here to work and life is very hard if you have no money.

"Also, I had 17 children and 11 of them died because of sickness in the Transkei.

"So I preferred to run away with the six children left to me.

"If I did not come here these children would also have been dead.

"But I wish someone could tell me how to get out of the trou-

ble I am in now."

Ester

Miriam writes: "I am 25 and a mother of three children. It sorrows me that I have had such a hard life. I feel so sad living in such crowded conditions. We are packed together like sardines. We have no place to stay.

"What is certain is that we won't go back to the Transkei because people are dying of starvation there and there is bad treatment at the hospitals.

"It is this that made us come here and look for proper medical treatment at the hospitals. Also there is no work in the Transkei."

"I, Alicia Nikelo, am one of the people evicted from the Main Barracks.

The reason I lived in the barracks is not that I have no pass or rights.

It's simple - I have got no accommodation, and there is no one who can accommodate me and

my children.

My husband died in 1976.

The Administration Office, instead of giving me a house, cancelled my pass. They told me I must go back

to the Transkei.

In the Transkei there is no one, no family who can help me. My mother lives in Guguletu. So why must I go?"

Alicia Nikelo

## Council should repair houses

EVERY month I have to pay my rent. In my rent I pay for maintenance of my two-bedroomed flat here in Bonteheuwel.

When something breaks in the house, I go to the rent office to complain. They always make a note of my complaint but they never do anything about it.

When I moved into this flat, the front door was broken. It could not close properly. After I had complained for a few months, I realised that the council was not going to help me.

I put up a new door myself. When I move out, the council won't allow me to take that door with me.

What are we paying the council for? Every month they take money from us but we don't see anything for it.

I say the council must repair my home because I pay the council to do this.

We must stand together people and tell the council that we cannot suffer like this any more.

They must repair our homes.  
A Bonteheuwel resident

RENTS go up every year  
 What is there to celebrate?  
 The Council refuses to repair our homes  
 What is there to celebrate?  
 Our houses are damp  
 What is there to celebrate?  
 There are no creches for our children  
 What is there to celebrate?  
 We were moved from the 'District' and  
 dumped here  
 What is there to celebrate?  
 Our wages remain low  
 What is there to celebrate?  
 We have no say in the Council  
 What is there to celebrate?  
 A Steenberg Resident

May 31 has come and gone. The people had no cause to celebrate. Forced into tiny homes all over the Cape Flats, the 20 years that this country has been a republic has only brought hardship for them.

It has only brought hardship because the majority of the people had no say in the formation of the Republic.

South Africa became a republic in 1961. Late in 1960, the government called on the white voters to decide whether South Africa should break its links with Britain and become an independent Republic.

In a 90 per cent poll, 850 000 whites

## Council spent R18 000 on festival

voted for a Republic, while 775 000 voted against. South Africa was set to become a Republic on May 31, 1961.

Why did the government call on white voters to decide on the forming of a Republic at this time?

In April of the year 1960 when the whites voted, 69 people were killed by police at Sharpsville. This brought an end to the peaceful protests of thousands of people against the pass laws. At Sharpsville, the people went to the police station to burn their passes and they were shot.

It also brought to an end ten years of mass action. In the 1950's, people stood together and protested against the unjust laws. A nationwide Defiance Campaign was organised in 1952. Hundreds of people went to jail for defying the laws.

In 1955, South Africans of all races met and adopted the Freedom Charter,

which spelt out the demands for a free South Africa. In 1956, 20 000 women marched to Pretoria to protest against the pass laws. Successful school boycotts and bus boycotts followed.

All this led to Sharpsville where the people were greeted with guns.

After the killings, the organisation leading the people, the African National Congress, together with a breakaway group, the Pan African Congress, was banned. A state of emergency was declared and numerous leaders were detained, banned and imprisoned.

The people were left without a voice. The government went to the white voters after this because they had to get support for the action they were taking against the organisations of the people.

Through forming a Republic, they brought white voters together in a strong

unit to ensure that they remain in a position of power.

A republic is a country where 'power lies with the people and their elected representatives.' The power today lies in the hands of a few people and the representatives of those few people.

The majority of the people have no say.

It took a number of years before the people started coming together in organisations again. Today people are joining trade unions, residents associations and youth groups, again. Through their organisations, they rejected the celebrations which meant nothing to them.

As one resident said: "How can we celebrate something which was formed to oppress us?"

Did you know that the City Council spent R17 900 on flags and decorations for the Republic Day festival in Cape Town? And they say they have no money to repair homes.

If the Council spent so much in Cape Town alone, how much did the government spend on the whole of the country? The festival publicity officer, Mr van Schoor, told Grassroots that it would take him some time to work this out. He was not able to say off-hand what was spent.

## The night the lights went out



Sydenham Heights residents burn candles outside their homes during 'Candlelight Night' on April 10 this year.

ON the night of April 10 this year the lights went out in nearly 10 000 Durban homes and candles were lit in a symbolic protest against rent increases.

Candlelight night - as April 10 came to be known - marked the end of a six-week boycott of rent in the Durban suburbs of Phoenix, Sydenham Heights and Newlands East.

### BREAK

The Durban City Council had tried to break the boycott - which involved about 60 000 people - by switching off the electricity in 65 homes.

The City Council claimed the lights were cut because tenants had not paid overdue accounts but members of the residents' associations in these areas felt it was done with the aim of dividing the peo-

ple.

The boycott was co-ordinated by the Durban Housing Action Committee (DHAC) after they had conducted a survey among residents which showed that most people in these three areas earned less than R150 a month and could not afford the 15% rent increase which the City Council demanded they pay from February this year.

The residents wanted the Council to scrap the rent increases and they said they would boycott rents till house-ising was subsidised, and they were charged rents they could afford.

### PERCENT

They also demanded a 30 percent rebate on their rates.

Although the boycott was successful till then... many people felt the hardship of hav-

ing to do without electricity would be too hard to bear.

Already they had to get up very early in the morning to prepare to go to work because... as is the case with most black people in Cape Town, they were forced to live far from their places of work and to get to work on time, they had to leave home very early.

### LONGER

If they were also forced to do without electricity, household tasks would take far longer.

And it seemed likely the Council was going to use this tactic to get the people to break the boycott.

The residents' representatives in the residents' and tenants' organisations decided that much had already been achieved by the boy-

cott - the residents had shown they could stand together in a massive show of unity to protest against high rents, the way they were treated by the City Council and their lack of rights as black people.

### PROTEST

The protest would continue... but in a different form.

Residents in all three areas would switch off their lights for two hours and light candles instead - to show their defiance of the City Council, to show they were not afraid to live without lights and, to show that they were united, and also to show they supported the people who had their electricity cut.

So, at 8 p.m. sharp

on April 10, the lights went out in 10 000

homes and candles were put in the windows.

At Sydenham Heights - three blocks of flats housing about 2 500 people - hundreds of children chanting 'we want food, we want bread' and 'rents come down' - burnt an effigy bearing the placard 'Sybil Horrors - referring to Durban's mayoress, Sybil Hotz.

### CANDLES

In Newlands East and Phoenix, the residents gathered outside their homes with candles, some singing freedom songs.

Since the boycott, DHAC has been busy re-evaluating its activity over the past year. So much has happened over the past year - the first year of DHAC's existence - and the organisation feels that the time has come to look at what has happened.

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The boycotts were part of the united action taken by communities against unjust laws at that time. All protest came to an end in 1960 when organisations and leaders were banned.

For a number of years, the people were without a voice. Then came 1976. Once again the dissatisfaction with the schooling system sparked off protest.

And then came 1980. Students protested against poor facilities, inferior education and the lack of SRC's and democratic school committees.

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ferior education also benefited the bosses, who could pay unskilled workers low wages, the students reasoned.

Through boycotting, students could force the authorities to attend to a few of their grievances. But for the daily problems still confronting students, they needed an organisation.

And it was this need that made students demand the right to have SRCs. They realised that through strong organisations, they would be united.

The end of the boycotts last year marked the beginning of the formation of SRCs.

At schools and colleges all over the Western Cape, students started building up their organisations. In order to get most of the students to join in the activities of the SRC, projects of interest must be tackled. Some SRCs have initiated school magazines, debating societies and drama groups.

Not only has student activity centered around issues which directly concern students, e.g. corporal punishment, but at times students have been asked to give support to broader community and worker

issues, such as the bus boycott, as well as the Wilson Rowntree boycott this year.

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Through talking to students, teachers and members of the community, it became clear that education is a community issue.

In the struggles at Eusebius Park High School in Worcester, Maresburg Senior Secondary School and Bishop Lavis High School, students saw they only had strength when they had the community behind them.

Last year they learnt that the time for doing things on their own was past.

The struggle for democracy is a burning issue in South Africa. This is clearly shown in the widespread rejection of Republic Day Festivals. And it is only in a democratic state that free, equal and democratic education may be achieved. But if parents and students are united in mass based organisations they will have made important steps forward in the struggle for a better education and for democracy in general.



# STUDENTS UNITE

## Student action in 1981

THE struggle against gutter education has definitely progressed in the Western Cape over the last five years, since 1976. It took an important step forward last year with the setting up of Students' Representative Councils at a large number of schools.

A number of these SRC's are still active, and are recognised by the principal of the school.

GRASSROOTS spoke to the SRC members of various schools to find out how they saw the role of SRC's, and the problems of organisation.

Asked what she thought the role of the SRC was, a Cape Town student answered: "The role of the SRC's has changed since they were set up last year. At that time they were there to plan and organise the boycott. The schools had to take part in the decision of whether to boycott or not."

Today SRC's have to represent the students on day to day issues, as well as general political and educational issues. They have to set up a strong and representative organisation. They have to encourage students to take an active part making sure that their demands are met.

What kind of day to day issues are taken up? "Corporal punishment is an important issue at many schools," she said. "Our SRC has won some victories in this area. There are other issues like dates for exams, problems with certain teachers or courses, and victimi-

zation of students, which can be taken up."

But SRC's don't run smoothly unless the students take part in SRC activities regularly. A student at one school described one project run by the SRC:

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Some SRC's have been criticised for standing apart from and being out of touch with students as a whole. There are several ways this can happen. Firstly, if an SRC is not democratic, it cannot keep in touch with the students. It has to be elected by all the students and respond to their views and demands.

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students all the time. "At our school we often hold discussions in every class," another SRC member said.

The third problem is that many SRC's run ahead of the students. They make political decisions, without discussing the issue in the school. One SRC member saw it as "the SRC being too advanced and militant for the students."

It seems that many SRC's are

too removed from the students, and fail to draw the students into discussions on strategy, or even into making decisions.

So we see that in many schools SRC's have made great advances. But, as the students interviewed pointed out, there are problems if the SRC's do not make every effort to involve as many students as possible in SRC activities, in a democratic and representative way.

*'Education is either for domestication or liberation'*



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- Vorwoerd.

### Community supports SRC

IT all happened a week before the end of the first term. An SRC member went to speak to the principal about corporal punishment given to a 5th, 6th pupil. In reply, the principal accused the SRC of "just organising boycott meetings". He started to hit the student. The student tried to defend himself with his case - which struck the principal's face and knocked off his glasses.

During the holiday, the principal went with a member of the School Committee to the student's home. They gave him a letter of expulsion. Some of the reasons given were:

- a) that he is not prepared to obey the authority and rules of the school
  - b) that he and the SRC were "always organising boycott meetings."
- The principal's action was met with anger by the community. Students of local high schools told

# Parents, students reject inferior education

THE Practical Course was first introduced at three schools - Crestway, Salt River and Maresburg. It was scrapped at the first two when the parents saw it was useless. At Maresburg, however, the principal was satisfied with the course.

The experience of the 1979/1980 Standard Eight Practical Class made the parents and present students realise that they had been fooled.

Early in March, Practical Course students boycotted lessons for 10 days. They were called back to class, after being addressed by a representative of the Department, who promised them jobs such as army cooks and players in the navy band.

The parents took up the issue, forming themselves into the Concerned Parents Committee. A delegation was chosen to present the following demands to the principal:

1. That the practical Course be scrapped.
2. That the pupils be transferred to the normal class of the same standard.
3. That there be no June test.
4. That the students be given extra lessons to make up time wasted in the practical class.

The Principal told the parents that the Department would look into the matter. After two weeks, the Department had still not made a decision. The parents then increased the pressure by the demands: the struggle was widely known through the newspapers, as meetings were held and the issue was taken up by the Maresburg community - whose support gave new confidence to the campaign.

The Department, without discussion with the parents, decided that the course would stop at the end of 1981. Thus those students presently involved would be forced to continue with a useless course.

Angered by this decision, the Concerned Parents and community organisations started a petition campaign. Maresburg School students boycotted classes in support of the community's demands.

The Department was now forced to respond. Parents of the Practical Course students were contacted with two hours notice to a meeting with the Chief and Regional inspectors. They tried to explain that to remain in the course would be in the interests of the students. The parents, not fooled by the soft-spoken words, stood firmly behind their demands. Three days later the course was scrapped, and students moved to the normal classes of the same standard.

Concerned Parents sparked off the first shots, but the struggle was won by the efforts of the community, of parents, students and community organisations. "In this united front we found the answer to our immediate problem and the guideline for future action," a Maresburg resident said.

### Worcester pupils re-instated

THE struggle at Eusebius Park High School, Worcester, began on February 4. 800 pupils boycotted classes after a mass meeting. The pupils were demanding:

1. An S.R.C.
2. A democratically elected parent/student committee.
3. The reinstatement of several former students who had not been allowed back this year.

The principal, Mr Tobias, granted an S.R.C., but suspended these pupils. He announced that these would be reinstated if they signed a "guarantee of good conduct", stating that they would not boycott and would obey the rules of the school.

On February 9, 177 pupils were suspended after boycotting in protest against the principal's action. They too had to sign the guarantee before being readmitted.

The principal's response provoked widespread action from the community.

Pupils at Eusebius Park, and at a nearby school boycotted in solidarity. Several meetings with parents and students were held, where it was decided that parents would not reapply. They demanded that their children be reinstated unconditionally.

Although invited to the meetings, the principal and school committee refused to attend. Finally, 1000 parents and students marched to the principal's house, demanding a reply from him.

In the face of united action by the parents and students, the authorities were powerless.

It was announced that all the pupils would be unconditionally reinstated. Commenting on the victory, a spokesperson for the students said: "It was the community pressure together with the support from students in the surrounding areas that helped us to get the Administration to back down."

# UWC STRUGGLE FOR A DEMOCRATIC SRC

MORE than 2 000 University of Western Cape students last month marched to the Administration offices and demanded that the Vice-Rector accept a new constitution for an SRC.

He was forced to accept it and today students are set to elect an SRC for the first time in four years.

It was during the boycotts of last year that students realised they needed a democratic organisation. Through boycotting, students fought for their demands to be met.

But students realised that they couldn't boycott every time they had a problem. They needed an SRC to unite them.

An ad hoc committee was formed to organise the SRC campaign. For the last few weeks, students have heard speakers from other campuses discuss the role and problems of an SRC. In pamphlets, the role of an SRC was spelt out.

- We see the SRC as having three major roles to play:
  - It should confront the racist

"mis-education" that we are offered, and provide an education to help build a democratic South Africa. This can be done through critically discussing the courses at "Bantu", and holding programmes of alternative lectures, films, etc.

- Forward: the demands of the students, in relation to issues such as hostels, the cafeteria, etc.
- Support the community. We must take our lead from the

struggles in the factories and townships. The material and human resources of the SRC must be offered for use by the community.

A spokesperson for the ad hoc committee said that the committee had two major tasks. "Firstly, the 1977 constitution had to be changed. This constitution gave the Rector control over SRC publications and funds. Such a SRC could not be autonomous and could not truly represent student

viewpoint. "Secondly, many students do not understand the function of the SRC and were not interested in taking part in the elections. Meetings had to be organised to get mass support. Through the meetings, the importance of the student role in the community was stressed."

At the end of the campaign, the 1977 constitution was formally rejected at a mass meeting. Students were then invited to make sugges-

ions for a new constitution. This was drafted and accepted the following week, when students marched in to the administration.

"The organisation of the SRC constitution and elections has been a long process. But we felt that it was worth it, to make sure that all students took part, and understand what the SRC is for."



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- Vorwoerd.

### Community supports SRC

IT all happened a week before the end of the first term. An SRC member went to speak to the principal about corporal punishment given to a 5th, 6th pupil. In reply, the principal accused the SRC of "just organising boycott meetings". He started to hit the student. The student tried to defend himself with his case - which struck the principal's face and knocked off his glasses.

During the holiday, the principal went with a member of the School Committee to the student's house. They gave him a letter of expulsion. Some of the reasons given were:

- a) that he is not prepared to obey the authority and rules of the school
  - b) that he and the SRC were "always organising boycott meetings."
- The principal's action was met with anger by the community. Students of local high schools told

# Parents, students reject inferior education

THE Practical Course was first introduced at three schools - Crestway, Salt River and Maresburg. It was scrapped at the first two when the parents saw it was useless. At Maresburg, however, the principal was satisfied with the course.

The experience of the 1979/1980 Standard Eight Practical Class made the parents and present students realise that they had been fooled.

Early in March, Practical Course students boycotted lessons for 10 days. They were called back to class, after being addressed by a representative of the Department, who promised them jobs such as army cooks and players in the navy band.

The parents took up the issue, forming themselves into the Concerned Parents Committee. A delegation was chosen to present the following demands to the principal:

1. That the practical Course be scrapped.
2. That the pupils be transferred to the normal class of the same standard.
3. That there be no June test.
4. That the students be given extra lessons to make up time wasted in the practical class.

The Principal told the parents that the Department would look into the matter. After two weeks, the Department had still not made a decision. The parents then increased the pressure by the demands: the struggle was widely known through the newspapers, as meetings were held and the issue was taken up by the Maresburg community - whose support gave new confidence to the campaign.

The Department, without discussion with the parents, decided that the course would stop at the end of 1981. Thus those students presently involved would be forced to continue with a useless course.

Angered by this decision, the Concerned Parents and community organisations started a petition campaign. Maresburg School students boycotted classes in support of the community's demands.

The Department was now forced to respond. Parents of the Practical Course students were summoned with two hours notice to a meeting with the Chief and Regional inspectors. They tried to explain that to remain in the course would be in the interests of the students. The parents, not fooled by the soft-spoken words, stood firmly behind their demands. Three days later the course was scrapped, and students moved to the normal classes of the same standard.

Concerned Parents sparked off the first shots, but the struggle was won by the efforts of the community, of parents, students and community organisations. "In this united front we found the answer to our immediate problem and the guideline for future action," a Maresburg resident said.

### Worcester pupils re-instated

THE struggle at Eusebius Park High School, Worcester, began on February 4. 800 pupils boycotted classes after a mass meeting. The pupils were demanding:

1. An S.R.C.
2. A democratically elected parent/student committee.
3. The reinstatement of several former students who had not been allowed back this year.

The principal, Mr Tobias, granted an S.R.C., but suspended these pupils. He announced that these would be reinstated if they signed a "guarantee of good conduct", stating that they would not boycott and would obey the rules of the school.

On February 9, 177 pupils were suspended after boycotting in protest against the principal's action. They too had to sign the guarantee before being readmitted.

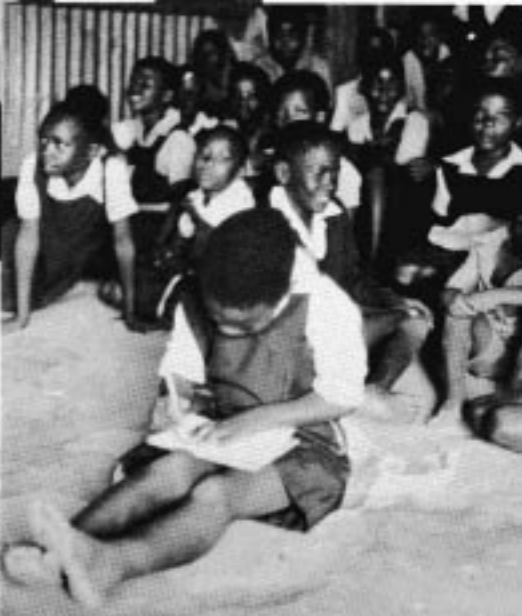
The principal's response provoked widespread action from the community.

Pupils at Eusebius Park, and at a nearby school boycotted in solidarity. Several meetings with parents and students were held, where it was decided that parents would not reapply. They demanded that their children be reinstated unconditionally.

Although invited to the meetings, the principal and school committee refused to attend. Finally, 1000 parents and students marched to the principal's house, demanding a reply from him.

In the face of united action by the parents and students, the authorities were powerless.

It was announced that all the pupils would be unconditionally reinstated. Commenting on the victory, a spokesperson for the students said: "It was the community pressure together with the support from students in the surrounding areas that helped us to get the Administration to back down."



# UWC STRUGGLE FOR A DEMOCRATIC SRC

MORE than 2 000 University of Western Cape students last month marched to the Administration offices and demanded that the Vice-Rector accept a new constitution for an SRC.

He was forced to accept it and today students are set to elect an SRC for the first time in four years.

It was during the boycotts of last year that students realised they needed a democratic organisation. Through boycotting, students fought for their demands to be met.

But students realised that they couldn't boycott every time they had a problem. They needed an SRC to unite them.

An ad hoc committee was formed to organise the SRC campaign. For the last few weeks, students have heard speakers from other campuses discuss the role and problems of an SRC. In pamphlets, the role of an SRC was spelt out.

- We see the SRC as having three major roles to play:
  - It should confront the racist

"mis-education" that we are offered, and provide an education to help build a democratic South Africa. This can be done through critically discussing the courses at "Bantu", and holding programmes of alternative lectures, films, etc.

- Forward: the demands of the students, in relation to issues such as hostels, the cafeteria, etc.
- Support the community. We must take our lead from the

struggles in the factories and townships. The material and human resources of the SRC must be offered for use by the community."

A spokesperson for the ad hoc committee said that the committee had two major tasks. "Firstly, the 1977 constitution had to be changed. This constitution gave the Rector control over SRC publications and funds. Such a SRC could not be autonomous and could not truly represent student

viewpoint. "Secondly, many students do not understand the function of the SRC and were not interested in taking part in the elections. Meetings had to be organised to get mass support. Through the meetings, the importance of the student role in the community was stressed."

At the end of the campaign, the 1977 constitution was formally rejected at a mass meeting. Students were then invited to make sugges-

ions for a new constitution. This was drafted and accepted the following week, when students marched in to the administration.

"The organisation of the SRC constitution and elections has been a long process. But we felt that it was worth it, to make sure that all students took part, and understand what the SRC is for."

# RESIDENTS WANT TRAFFIC LIGHTS

HANOVER PARK residents are demanding that the City Traffic Department erect traffic lights at the corner of Blomvlei Road and Hanover Park Avenue in view of the many accidents that happened there.

A group of residents

living in the area surrounding the corner felt the need for a robot because of the many people and especially children who cross the road by the corner daily.

More than 3 000 children from the nine schools and creches in

the area use the crossing daily. This excludes workers who live and work in the area.

## PETITION

The concerned residents approached the Hanover Park Civic Association and it was decided to draw up a petition to demand a

traffic light at the corner.

Most of the people in the area have already signed the petition and housemeetings have been held to discuss how the petition should be handed over to the Traffic Department.

A slide show was also made to show how busy the crossing is.

It was also decided to involve the schools who are affected in the campaign.

Residents feel that the one pedestrian robot and the scholar patrol on Hanover Park Avenue is not enough.

'The corner of Blomvlei Road and Hanover Park Avenue is extremely dangerous because six streams of traffic criss-cross on this corner.

'We can't even send our children to the only shop and butcher in the area, because it is on this corner,' a resident said.

## Twenty students pass Mbekweni literacy test

TWENTY pupils — four of them with first class Standard Five passes — received their certificates during a yearly presentation held in Mbekweni Township.

Sixteen other pupils passed the literacy class. Included with these people was a 62 year old man, Mr H Lando

Mr Lando passed all the subjects of the literacy course which were Xhosa, English and Afrikaans.

According to one of the teachers, the school started in January last year.

In an interview later, the old man Mr Lando said that he was going to continue with his education as far as he could get.

Asked why he started education himself at his age, he said he wanted to be able to read and write as he was from the Royal Blood and

could be expected to assume chieftainship.

But you could have done that when you were young? He said because he was naughty during his young age he went to Johannesburg to work in the mines and neglected education.

After the presentation was over about 50 guests were treated to cool drinks, cakes and music.

## Complaint lodged over train violence

THE Duinefontein Tenants Association (DTA) has changed its name to the Manenberg Tenants Association and has broadened its operation to include the whole Township.

The Area has been divided into 28 street committees of which 20 are already operational.

As one of its first tasks the MTA has written to the City Council and the Railways listing

various grievances of the people in the area.

The letter to the General Manager of the railways says:

It is now an established fact that commuters using your transport on the Nyanga route to and from Cape Town are continuously being molested, robbed and assaulted or even raped.

On behalf of the entire Manenberg Community who patronizes your transport, we, the above association strongly stress that your department should really get to some solution to this very serious problem. It is now common knowledge that the railway line on the route stated above is one of the most un-

safe and dangerous means of transport to the Manenberg Community. Hundreds of rail commuters are now considering switching over to other forms of transport.

We appeal to you to urgently look into this complaint and reply to our letter of concern as soon as possible.

The letter to the council says:

On behalf of the above association, I would like to draw your attention to a few items of interest.

The public swimming baths in Manenberg Avenue closes at 1700 hrs, which we think will be very inconvenient for our adult community

during the summer season. In order for the entire Manenberg community to really enjoy this relaxing amenity, we would like you to consider our proposal that closing time should be at 2000hrs for the earliest during the said season.

Concerning the installation of water taps and electric power plugs with separate meters inside homes, which was promised during 1980, the community wants to have an assurance of when work will really start.

Electric meter rooms at various courts have broken doors. This is a dangerous threat to the lives of children or anybody can electrocute themselves. Electricity department controlling Manenberg power have at numerous times been informed telephonically but no heed has been taken.

The Manenberg community demand that these items receive your immediate and urgent attention

## INFILL SCHEME — We are all AFFECTED!!!...

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THE COUNCIL WILL NOT PROVIDE MORE FACILITIES FOR THE NEW PEOPLE...

AND WE ARE ALREADY SHORT OF SPORT



BECAUSE OF THE SHORTAGE OF FACILITIES, AND OVERCROWDING, THERE WILL BE MORE CRIME

WE MUST UNITE TO FIGHT THE INFILL SCHEME



ISSUED BY KFRTA, P.O. BOX 12, WOLTEMAAR 7445

A LARGE number of residents from Kensington and Factreton have already signed the petition against the infill scheme. The Kensington and Factreton Ratepayers and Tenants Association has printed a cartoon to explain the evils of the infill scheme to the people. "Support the campaign and stop council from building an infill scheme in our area," the KFRTA urges.

## Infill scheme causes hardship

THE Bonteheuwel Civic Association says that it wants to warn other areas to fight against the infill scheme being introduced into their areas.

"We have been the victim of this scheme and we know what hardship it brings.

When it was initiated in Bonteheuwel in 1974 the scheme was met with protest led by the Ministers Fraternal.

The protest was unsuccessful because people were led to believe that the new houses to be built would provide homes for people living in the area — and also because the people were not properly organised at the time.

Nearly 13 000 maisonnettes were built. These houses inconvenienced many people because part of their backyards were used and this resulted in the loss of private playing space for their children.

The children now have to play in the streets which is dangerous.

Most important of all was the loss of their privacy.

It would not be wrong to say that people are now living on top of one another.

The myth that the houses were built for the people of Bonteheuwel was soon exposed. People from outside were moved in.

It is not that the people of Bonteheuwel begrudge the others a home to stay in, but it was done at the cost of the people's privacy.

The results of the infill scheme were numerous.

The crime rate soared.

Schools are now jam-packed — for the fifteen primary schools there are only three high schools.

Public transport is inadequate for the amount of people.

And to crown it all, the Council built even more maisonnettes in 1980.

The difference in rent between the old houses and those in the infill scheme is enormous.

The Council has also put the new rules on maintenance into effect for the houses built in 1980.

The Bonteheuwel Civic Association which was founded in 1980 is faced with many issues in the area.

To get more information a survey will be done in the area.

"We invite any person interested to attend our General Meetings on the last Wednesday of the month," a spokesperson said.

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# ADVICE BUREAU

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### LEAD IS A POISON.



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	AND OTHERS...

## DANGERS of lead

LEAD is a substance that is widely used in industry. Many people work with lead.

It is possible that these workers do not realise that lead is a poison, and a danger to the health of themselves and their families.

Often people do not even know that it is lead that they are working with. This is because lead comes in different forms.

For example some people are working with lead metal. Lead metal is used at Leyland Motors. There the gaps between the panels of the car body are filled with lead solder.

Further down the production line this solder is smoothed off by grinders.

The workers who solder and grind with lead are exposed to lead dust and fumes.

At Fry's Metals the workers are recovering the lead from old car batteries. This lead is smelted into bars to be re-used.

The workers there are breathing in lead dust and fumes from the air.

For other workers it is less easy for them to know that they are working with lead. This is because they are working with lead com-

pounds.

Lead compounds are powders. Some of the brightly coloured dyes are added to paints and enamels. Others are used in making plastics and glass.

If you think that you are working with lead and you want to know about the danger to the health of the workers and their families, then write to the Advice Bureau of Grassroots. We will send you a free copy of a booklet explaining the danger from lead: 328 South West House, Shortmarket Street, Cape Town 8001.

## Three in 1000 Cape Flats children are retarded

Q: The Doctors say that my child has "Mental handicap." What does this mean?

A: People who are mentally handicapped cannot cope with today's activities that others manage easily.

Children may learn to walk and talk later than others of their own age.

It also takes longer for them to learn to use the toilet and dress.

Later on, they may not be able to learn at school.

When they are adults, they may not be able to work. They may also not be able to do the things that others take for granted, such as handling money, travelling on buses and trains and shopping.

Q: Even though he is slow now, will my child eventually catch up and be the same as the others of his age?

A: No, mentally handicapped people are never able to cope as well as others do.

But, they can be helped to manage better. What they can learn to not quite the same as others.

Q: Could my child be

mentally handicapped because of illness when I was pregnant?

A: Most illnesses during pregnancy do not cause mental handicap. But, some illnesses, such as German measles, it is better to be injected against it before starting a baby.

Q: I want to have another child. Will it also be mentally handicapped?

A: The chances of this happening are not high.

But, discuss your worry with the nurse or doctor at the clinic or hospital to which you take your child.

Q: They say that mental handicap is not usually passed on from either parent.

If this is true, what causes it?

A: You are right - mental handicap is seldom passed on. In most cases, we do not know the cause, but there are some things which are often connected.

These are:

- difficult birth, especially when the baby takes a long time to breathe
- severe illness over a long time, especially in the first few years of life

- not getting enough of the right kinds of food (malnutrition) in the first few years

- inflammation of the brain (e.g. meningitis)

- many fits

Many children who have had these problems are not affected, and are not mentally handicapped.

Q: Other children tease my child and call him "tartie."

I feel very alone because there are no other children like him in our street.

What must I do?

A: You are not alone. Surveys done on the Cape Flats in the last five years showed that 3 in every 1000 children under the age of 18 years are mentally handicapped. This is similar to other areas.

Other children are often unkind - now that you understand what your child's problem is, explain this to others.

Q: Will my child be able to get into a special place of care?

A: Children who are mentally handicapped should go to school when others go. But

they will need special teaching because they learn slower.

There are a few homes for children who are mentally handicapped.

They stay at these homes during the week, and over the weekends and during holidays parents may fetch them to take them home.

There are also Day Care Centres in Bonteheuwel, Netreg, Retreat, Grassy Park, Mitchells Plain, Manenberg, Ocean View and Guguletu. Thembalethu Centre in Guguletu also accepts children who have cerebral palsy and mental handicap.

Here the children can play under supervision, but must be fetched by their parents at the end of the day.

BUT there are long waiting lists for children to get into Day Centres and homes.

Q: What can I do if my child cannot get into a Day Centre or home?

A: Because there are many people in this position, you should find out from the sister at the clinic where

they are. You can then form a parent group.

Parents can do a lot to help their mentally handicapped children. Specially trained people can help parents to be better teachers - but parents are definitely the most important teachers.

If you are in a group, you can help one another. You can also look at ways of seeing that special centres are provided for your children.

This cannot be done by ONE person - if you work as a group, it will be much easier and more successful.

Q: Is there any way I can get a grant for my child?

A: If your child is badly handicapped and not suitable for a day care centre, a grant can be applied for through a social worker at your day hospital or Cape Mental Health Society.

This is called a single care grant, BUT not everybody who applies will get it. The authorities in the Department of Health and Social Welfare in Pretoria decide who will get the grant.

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# Witnesses and their rights

IN the last issue of Grassroots we dealt with the right of an accused person to remain silent either when he is questioned or appears in Court.

In this article we want to deal with the position of a witness.

An accused person is one who is suspected of having committed an offence. A witness is a person who gives evidence either against or for the accused.

The position of a witness to make a statement is slightly different from that of an accused person.

## STATEMENT

A witness cannot be forced to give a statement to the police.

If the police believe that a person has certain information concerning a crime which he or she refuses to give to them, such person

can be brought to Court to compel him to disclose such information.

This often happens to journalists.

They obtain certain information during the course of their work and refuse to disclose the source of their information, because the information was supplied in strict confidence.

A person who is brought to Court to disclose certain information and refuses to do so, he or she can be sentenced to imprisonment for a maximum period of 2 years for ordinary crimes and in terms of the security laws to a maximum period of 5 years.

## REFUSES

After the person has served such a sentence and still refuses to disclose the information he or she can again be sentenced. This process

can go on until he discloses the information.

When a witness is summoned to Court to give evidence against an accused and such person refuses to testify, he or she can also be sentenced to imprisonment as in the case of a person who refuses to disclose information.

Such person can likewise be brought to Court after serving his or her sentence and again be asked to testify. If he or she fails, such person can again be sentenced to imprisonment. This process can go on until he or she testifies or the state decides to drop the matter.

In a recent case where certain witnesses refused to testify against certain accused who were charged under the security laws, they were

sentenced to 2 years imprisonment.

## SUMMARISED

The position of a witness can be briefly summarised as

1. He or she can refuse to disclose any information to the police or can refuse to give a statement to the police.
2. Such person can however be forced by the Court to disclose such information or give evidence.

3. If such person refuses, he or she can be sentenced to imprisonment from time to time until such person discloses the information or agrees to give evidence.

In the next issue we will deal with the question: "Can a witness be detained in prison for purpose of giving evidence?"

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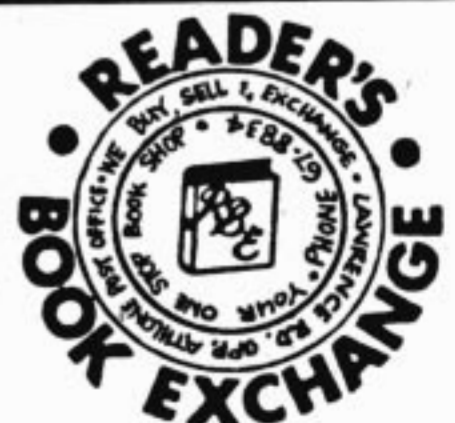
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## ADVICE BUREAU

# Backache - caused by muscle strain



EVERY one of us suffers at some time or other with aches and pains.

Workers particularly liable to back strain are those in mining, farm labouring and working in the docks.

Pre-employment screening in some industries could prevent people with weak backs from working with heavy loads.

As we get older, joints and muscles not

only begin to show signs of wear and tear but flatly refuse to take extra strain.

#### WHY PAIN?

Some pain is necessary, because pain is the warning sign which protects the body against overstraining itself.

#### HOW TO AVOID BACK PAIN

One cannot always prevent the risks which cause back strain, but

try to avoid sudden, awkward movements. You should aim to have a good posture, whether you are standing, sitting, walking or working. Try to keep these simple rules in mind:

#### Lifting heavy weights

Bend the knees and keep the spine straight - see drawing. Lift, if you can, between the bent knees, so that the load is as close to your body as possible. Lift by straightening the legs, where you have strong muscles.

When carrying weights try to keep the weight in front of you so that you don't bend the spine sideways.

#### Sitting

Many workers sit down at their work. They, or their bosses, should choose the chairs they sit in so as to reduce the risk of back

pain.

The chair, as shown in the picture, should support the lower spine well because this is where pain is most common. The chair's height should be such that both feet can rest comfortably on the ground.

#### Backache and beds.

We spend a third of our lives in bed, so it is important that the bed gives firm support. So-called "orthopaedic" beds are not essential.

Any bed can be prevented from sagging by placing 2 or 3 nine-inch planks across it under that part of the mattress that supports the trunk. Or put the mattress on the floor.

#### Watch your weight

If you have a back that gives you trouble, it will give you more trouble if you are overweight.

Carrying a couple of extra kilos around means a continuous extra load on your back.

#### When back pain strikes

Despite precautions, you may still be laid low with back pain.

The most common cause is muscle or ligament strain. Both can be caused by lifting weights awkwardly or by twisting or bending the joints of the spine beyond the normal range.

The pain is felt immediately and is bad enough to stop the activity that is causing the damage. The pain can be relieved by keeping the muscles warm and by resting.

If the pain does not start to get better after a few days, it is sensible to see your doctor, in case the cause is something other than a simple strain.



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## Check up's cost wages

DEAR GRASSROOTS, I read the letter from the "concerned doctor" about high blood pressure and the problems that people have in getting treatment. This is my story:

It was in 1977 that the doctors first told me that I had high blood. They told me that I must come back every month for treatment.

For a while I did go back but after a few months I stopped.

In 1980 I had a stroke and had to stay away from work for two months.

I am better from that now but I have learned that I must go back every month.

I am doing that now, but there are problems.

I am a widow. My

husband died a long time ago. I have two children to look after and they must go to school. There are lots of things that they need.

I work as a char-lady for a company that sends us out to clean flats and offices.

It is hard work and they don't pay us very much.

We must be at the company at 7 a.m. and we start work at 8. We finish at 4.30. We work Saturdays too. They don't like us to take tea or lunch breaks. They don't care if we get sick.

I am sure that it is this hard work and my worries as a widow that made me sick. It is hard to make the company realise that I need to go to hospital every month. Every time I go they

want to see a certificate from the doctor and I think they take money off my wages.

Every time I go to hospital it costs me my bus fare and R1.00.

But I cannot afford to see the private doctor.

The long wait at the hospital often means that I spend the whole morning there.

#### WORK

But now I ask - if it was their hard work that made me sick why do they take money from me when I go to hospital? If they know I must go to hospital why must they have a certificate every time that I go?

Mrs B Olifants  
Heideveld



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# Frere Court residents tell their story



THE play is the people and the people are the play – that is community theatre.

In Lavender Hill, young and old joined in when the Lavender Hill Committee presented the story of the 'Washing Lines'. For two years, the residents of Frere Court struggled with their lines which were in a terrible condition.

Then one day, the committee held a meeting in the court and the people decided to stand together. A letter was written and signed by all Frere Court residents. The Council was forced to repair the lines.



WRITERS

## THE PAINTING

LUCKY Bogale is an artist. He is a very good friend of mine. Lucky is about 35 years old. He is married and has three children. He loves his wife and children very much. But they are not the only people he loves. He loves everyone. Lucky loves people.

Whenever he meets anyone for the first time, he gives them a broad friendly smile and he talks as if he had known them for a long time. So, whenever people meet Lucky they immediately feel comfortable and relaxed. And that's just how I felt the first time I met Lucky.

It was many years ago in a shebeen in Soweto. People were drinking and laughing. Some danced to loud music. Others were having a friendly argument about boxing and soccer. But I was alone. I had no friends to talk to, no-one to laugh with. I was just sitting quietly in a corner sipping my beer. Then someone tapped my shoulder. When I looked around I saw him.

"Heita, bra," he said. "I'm Lucky." He smiled at me through his thick beard.

"I'm David," I grinned. We shook hands.

"Come sit with us, man," Lucky said. "Why are you sitting here alone?"

I thanked him and went to join him and his friends. They were all friendly and in a very jovial mood. We sang, laughed, joked and drank beer all night. The night gulped up the hours faster than we drank our beer. When we finally staggered home it was already morning. Fowls were greeting the sun outside.

I enjoyed that night very much. The night I met Lucky Bogale.

And soon Lucky and I were the best of friends. We went everywhere together; football matches, bioscope, art exhibitions. Any everywhere people knew Lucky.

Indeed so many people knew him that, often, it was hard to talk in public places.

"Heita, Lucky," a man would call from across the road.

"Heita, bra i" someone would shout from a bus queue.

"Hoezit, fa na," people would wave from a passing car.

But in Lucky's house it was different. Here Lucky and I could speak without



By Christopher van Wyk

interruption. And here was where I learnt to understand my friend well. We must have melted down miles of candles talking nights. And, even after they had bled themselves into their own wax graves, we would continue into the dark nights, talking of life and living.

Of people, Lucky spoke very much; his wife, his children, friends, dustmen, clerks, street sweepers, priests, musicians, black people, white people. Lucky loved them all.

Of his art, Lucky did not talk very much. And he had no need to. His paintings spoke for themselves, every face was a face we had all seen before; a face bursting with laughter in the flicker of a candle, the sadistic cruelty behind a raised baton, the utter despair of an abandoned child, hate behind handcuffs,

the beseeching plea of a beggar, the solemnity of worship, ribaldry in a shebeen. . .

But the painting I liked best was in Lucky's dining room. It was a mural that stretched from one wall to the other, from the floor to the asbestos ceiling. It was a painting of Soweto and the people who live there.

It showed children on their way to school. Men and women cramped in trains. Vans unloading bread and paraffin. Houses, streets, cars, buses, a horse, dogs, cats, vendors, mealie cobs. And a cloud of smoke from a million chimneys. It was appropriately titled: Morning in Soweto.

But one day the morning was different. June 16 1976. Shops burning, children dying, cars stoned, screaming, flaming buses, tears bursting from cani-

sters and from death, bullets, guns.

Lucky cried. And in a frenzy of anger, he grabbed a can of paint. He threw it at the mural. Red paint splashed onto the black cloud. It tricked over the chimneys and houses. It dripped like tears onto the faces of the women, men, children. People bled. Bread was soaked in red. Babies drowned in blood.

Five years have passed since that day. The paint on Lucky's wall has long since dried. Now it shows a morning in Soweto as it is today. The babies are still gone. People are gone forever, dead or in another land. And when the people smile there is a streak of dry blood across their faces. And when they eat they still taste the blood in the bread. And the smoke-cloud above their heads is blood-bloated, poised to bring forth its bloody torrents.

# Atlantis residents assoc. formed

MONTHS of organising by a 17-person action committee culminated in a successful mass meeting in Atlantis on May 18.

More than 600 people attended and there was standing room only.

The meeting unanimously decided to establish a Residents' Association to replace the one which had become defunct.

All 17 members of the action committee were elected to the executive of the Residents' Association.

The executive, as part of its action programme, is to prepare a memorandum to be sent to the "highest authority" listing the grievances expressed at the meeting.

Some of the grievances are:

- Dissatisfaction with the Management Committee which has "done nothing" for the people of Atlantis.
- There are only two doctors during the week and none at weekends when they are most needed.
- The day hospital has only one doctor

and a serious shortage of nurses.

- The ambulance service is hopelessly inadequate.
- Too few recreation facilities.
- An alarmingly high crime rate and too few policemen.
- No internal bus service.
- Brackish water.

When a member of the Management Committee tried to interject during one of the speeches he was booed.

Later, however, he was given a hearing.

He said that people should be patient. "Atlantis has only been in existence for five years," he said.

"Elsies River and Tiervlei have been going for scores of years without facilities and they aren't complaining like we are." This statement infuriated the audience.

A speaker from the floor was loudly applauded when he said: "We should have nothing to do with Management Committees. We, the people, must ostracise Management Committee Members."

## Pensioner must feed seven on R12 pm

A DISABILITY pensioner told the meeting that after paying her rent and other essential expenses she only had R12 over for food for the month.

And that for a family of seven!

She was speaking from the floor during question time.

She complained bitterly about the lack of medical facilities in the area.

"My husband is a chronic asthma sufferer," she said. "We can't

get treatment for him here so he has to go to Grassy Park every time. This costs R4 in travelling alone. I suffer from high blood and I also have to go to Grassy Park which is another R4.

"I have a deaf and dumb son. He has to go to school in Wittebome.

"He is too young to travel all the way from Atlantis so he has to board there. This costs R40.

"After I have paid everything I'm left with

only R12 for food for seven people for the month. I am sure I am not alone in this trouble in Atlantis. There are many like me." (A "yes" chorus from the audience).

"Not long ago they told me that as a pensioner my rent would be coming down. What happened? It went up instead.

"We've just been dumped here in Atlantis.

"They treat us like dogs.

"I ask you would they treat Whites like this?"

Speakers also complained about inadequate medical facilities in the area.

"There are only two private doctors and they are only available from Monday to Friday," said one.

"There is only one doctor at the day hospital and then also from Monday to Friday.

"He is so overworked that much of the treatment is done by the nurses."

## Raw deal for local workers

BOSSES in Atlantis have been accused of ganging up against local workers.

Speaking in support, a resident told the meeting that because of the bosses attitude in the area nearly 6 000 local residents had to travel to Cape Town to work.

"The industrialists here have made a pact that if a worker leaves his job at a local firm no other firm in the area will employ him.

"This leaves us wide open to exploitation. Workers have to work

24 hour shifts. Overtime is compulsory - no matter how inconvenient it is to the worker.

"If we refuse to work overtime we are sacked and that means the end of our employment chances in the town in which we are forced to live."

He said that people working in Atlantis were paid much less than those doing the same job in Cape Town.

He said that a machinist earning R34 in Cape Town would

only be paid R23 by the company's sister company in Atlantis.

"And this despite the fantastic concessions received by companies operating in Atlantis.

"Did you know that for every rand the boss pays you he receives 40 cents back from the government?

"For every rand he spends on rail costs he gets 30 cents.

"If he has to pay removal costs to bring workers from outside to live and work in Atlantis he gets the whole amount back."

# CRAWFORD ORGANISES

## First meeting of Crawford residents association

RESIDENTS of Crawford and surrounding areas have united under the banner of the Crawford Residents' (Civic) Association to fight the problems affecting them.

On Monday, 18 May 1981, the Crawford Residents' (Civic) Association was formally established at an annual general meeting held in the SPRA Hall.

The meeting came after intensive campaigning in the area by the steering committee. Campaigning took the form of door-to-door visits; a survey in which questionnaires were distributed to residents to find out whether they needed a civic organization in the area and what they wanted from such an organization; pamphleteering and sticking up posters.

But why was the Crawford Residents' (Civic) Association formed?

### 1980

The steering committee, like many other community bodies, arose out of the events of 1980. The residents of the area felt the need to take part in the struggles of 1980 (the schools boycott, meat boycott and bus boycott) in an organised and disciplined way.

Because no organisation which already existed in the area was willing to take up these issues, the Belthorn Residents' (Civic) Association was formed. The organization enabled residents to play an active, organised role in the various struggles. Most meetings were

packed and people voiced their anger, indignation and protest.

However, enthusiasm fell and people no longer felt a pressing need to attend meetings.

The steering committee saw the need to establish a permanent, functioning representative organization in the area.

### THE MEETING

A speaker told the meeting of the need for organised civic action. He outlined the importance of such an organization in the fight for civic amenities and also in the struggle for basic rights which are denied to the majority in South Africa. After this address, a member of the steering committee briefly related what work had been done in the area up to now. Many interesting points were raised in the discussion time which followed.

### CONSTITUTION

A draft constitution, drawn up by the steering committee, was presented to the meeting and discussed in detail. A number of changes were made. An interesting and important one was the change in the organization's name - from Belthorn Residents' (Civic) Association to Crawford Residents' (Civic) Association.

A resident made the

point that "Crawford" covered all areas (including Belthorn) while "Belthorn" seemed to be referring to only Belthorn and excluded other areas.

The meeting was

ably handled by the chair person, who because of past experience in civic and community organization had been invited to chair this meeting.

Many people volun-

teered to do street representative work. Although there was no burning issue (such as the 1980 rise in busfare) which affected the residents there are other important issues about

which residents feel strongly. These include the lack of facilities in the area (libraries, parks, crèches, etc.) and poor services (dirt collection, street lighting and bad roads, for example).

Although it was bitterly cold on the night of the meeting, about 60 people attended.

The work is only really beginning now that the Crawford Residents' (Civic) Association is on its feet.

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# USING GRASSROOTS

CIVIC bodies find the selling of Grassroots a great help when organising in their areas.

In Mitchell's Plain the selling of Grassroots and the Due Date Must Change campaign went hand in hand.

Grassroots published the findings of the survey on this issue run by the Electricity Petition Committee on the front page of its last edition.

We also gave details of a planned mass meeting in the Lentegeur Civic Centre.

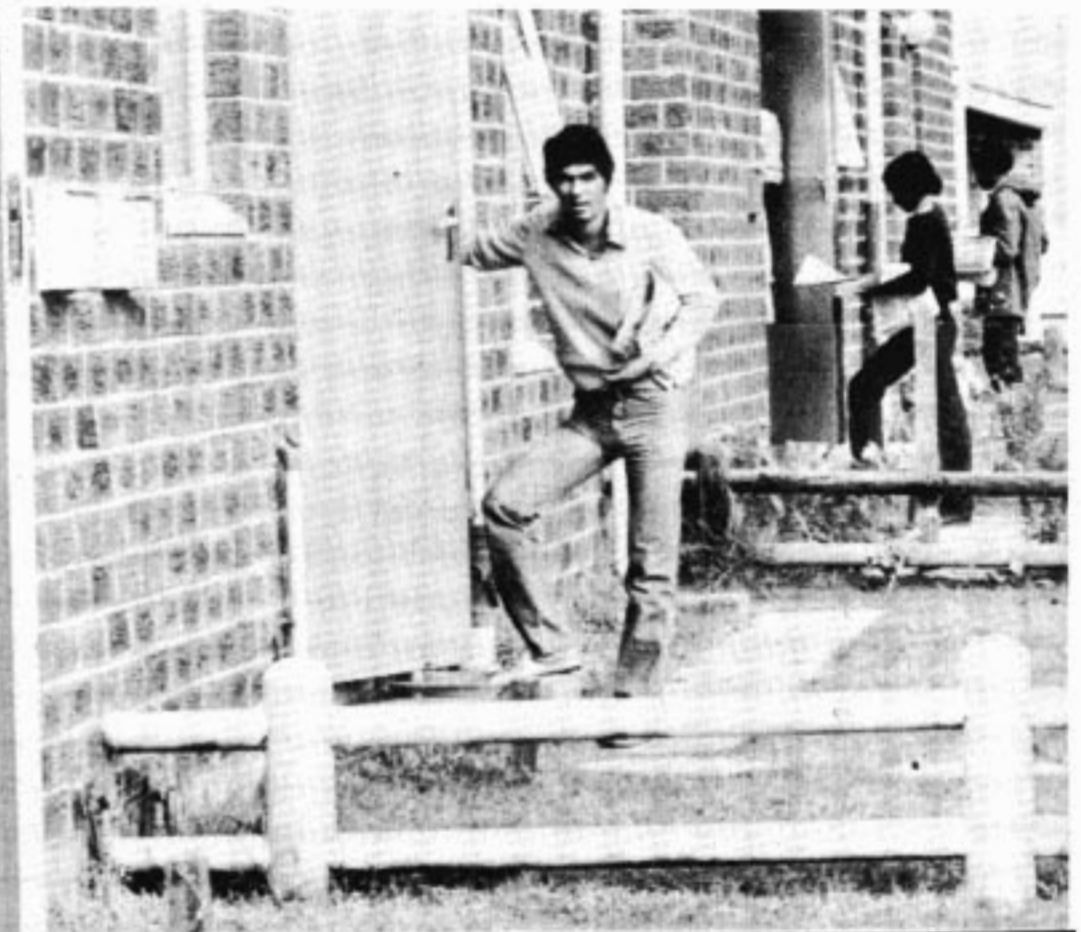
On the Sunday before the meeting a 50 strong

sales team organised by the EPC assembled at the Centre. Lentegeur and part of Woodlands were divided into areas and sales teams of about five people "invaded" each area.

After the areas were covered the teams re-assembled for lunch. After lunch other areas were tackled by the teams.

The day ended with tea - and what a tea it was!

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## Shock for nurses

AFRICAN nurses feel that a door has been banged in their faces by the South African Nursing Association.

When the new nurses salary scales were announced earlier this year, the wage gap between White and Coloured nurses was at last

done away with.

Towards the end of April they wrote a letter to the SANA in Pretoria, asking the Council to receive a delegation from the Association to discuss the problem.

A spokesperson for the Association told

Grassroots: "Not long afterwards we received a letter from SANA.

"In the letter they said they had done their part in fighting for our increases and if we were not satisfied we must fight the matter with our respective employing bodies."

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